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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,313	05/17/2005	Nobumasa Sakurai	112857-545	5994
29175	7590	07/20/2006		EXAMINER
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC				NGUYEN, THONG Q
P. O. BOX 1135			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135				2872

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/535,313	SAKURAI ET AL.	
	Examiner Thong Q. Nguyen	Art Unit 2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 8-10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 11,13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/13/06</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The present Office action is made in response to the amendment filed on 5/18/2006. It is noted that in the mentioned amendment, applicant has amended claim 8. There is not any claim being added or canceled from the application. The pending claims 8-14 are examined in this Office action. Note that claims 1-7 were canceled by the applicant in the pre-amendment of 5/17/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Magnuson (U.S. Patent No. 2,707,418).

Magnuson discloses a holder for supporting an optical element which holds has a mechanical device for mounting the holder to the front end of a camera. The holder as described in columns 1-2 and shown in figs. 1-5 comprises the following features: a) a base element in the form of a circular body (14) having a rearward mounting flange (15) for mounting over a lens barrel (13) of a camera having bellows (11), shutter (12) and lens (13); b) a ring (20) in the form of a tubular element for releasably clamping an optical auxiliary to the base portion (14); and c) an optical auxiliary disposed between the tubular ring (20) and the base element wherein the optical auxiliary can be a filter or a lens (see column 1, lines 15-17 and lines 21-25). It is noted that the ring (20) defines an opening (25)

for allowing light entering the holder wherein the ring comprises a protrusion (26) formed on a bottom section of the ring and extended from an inside of the ring. See column 2 and figs 4-5. The protrusion acts as a dowser which contracts a portion of incident light. Regarding to the connection between the base element (14) and the ring (20), Magnuson discloses that the base element (14) comprises internal thread (18) and the ring (20) comprises external thread (22) so that the connection between the ring and the base element is removably attached to each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Magnuson in view of either Kume et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,540) or Moore (U.S. Patent No. 3,828,991).

The holder having a base element (14), a ring (20), and a mechanism for removably attached the base element and the ring to each other as provided by Magnuson does not disclose that the mechanism for removably attaching the ring and the base element is in the form of a bayonet claw as claimed. However, the use of a mechanism for coupling two components in an optical device wherein the mechanism comprises either a threaded connection or a bayonet-type

connection is known to one skilled in the art as can be seen in the optical device disclosed by either Kume et al or Moore. In particular, Kume et al disclose an optical device having a lens barrel (1) mounted in front of a lens frame (5) of a camera (4) wherein the connection between the lens barrel (1) and the lens frame (5) is either a thread connection or a bayonet connection. See column 4, lines 55-60. In the same viewpoint, Moore discloses a mechanism for connection two components in an optical device wherein the connection is either a thread connection or a bayonet connection. See column 2, lines 51-61 and figs. 4-5. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the holder mounted in front of a camera as provided by Magnuson by using a bayonet mechanism as suggested by either Kume et al or Moore for removably connecting the ring (20) and the base element (14) in place of a thread connection for the purpose of making the time of connection quicker and also reducing the manufacture cost due to the formation of threaded portions on the two elements.

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Magnuson in view of the Japanese reference No. 11-236909.

The holder having a base element (14), a ring (20), an optical auxiliary, and a mechanism for removably attached the base element and the ring to each other wherein the optical auxiliary is disposed between the ring and the base element as provided by Magnuson does not disclose that the auxiliary element is a wide conversion lens as claimed. However, Magnuson indeed disclose that the optical

auxiliary element can be an auxiliary lens. See column 1, lines 15-17 and lines 21-25. It is also noted that the use of a mechanism for coupling two components in an optical device wherein one of the components supports a filter or a convertible lens is known in the art as disclosed in the Japanese Patent No. 11-236909. See sections [0001] and [0009]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the holder supporting an auxiliary lens as provided by Magnuson by using a wide conversion lens as suggested by the Japanese Patent '909 in place of a filter for the purpose of providing a wider field of view for the optical device.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 11 and 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

See the reasons as set forth in the previous Office action of 3/29/06, pages 4-6.

Response to Arguments

9. The amendments to claim 8 and applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-10 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

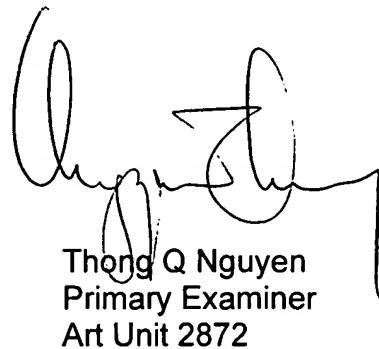
Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional references are cited as of interest in that each discloses an optical system having two components each supporting at least one optical element and a mechanical system for removably attaching the two components to each other.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2316. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thong Q Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872

11.